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ENG 3009G-001: Myth and Culture

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Engl 3009G: Myth and Culture /Spring Semester 2020
CRN: 32661 –Classroom: Coleman Hall 3170

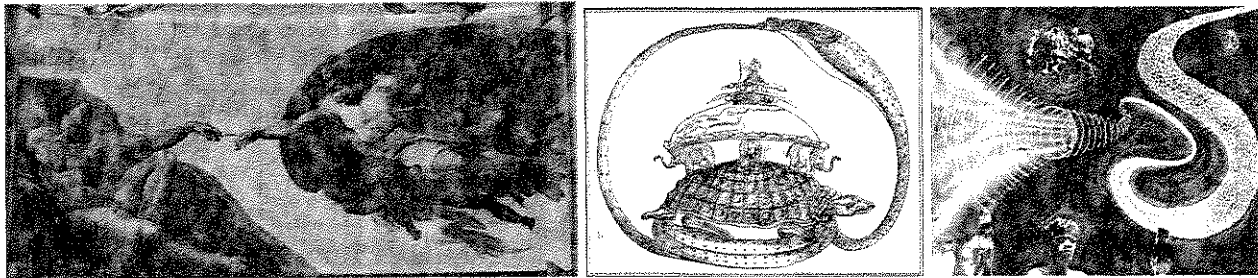
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Office Hours: Tu/Th 10am to 11am; Wed 1:45-2:45pm
or by appointment



COURSE DESCRIPTION: Modern society sometimes uses “myth” as another word for “lie” (“the Five Myths of Weight-Loss Exploded!”). But cultures and literary masterpieces have developed myths as a way to deeper truths. Myths help structure our thought; we live by certain myths. Rather than a chronological look at the myths of different civilizations, this course juxtaposes Classic mythic stories of different cultures with modern ones. Themes of this course will begin with “Origins,” and end with “Collisions.”

TEXTS:

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. *Purple Hibiscus*.

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*.

Rosenberg, Donna. *World Mythology: an Anthology of Great Myths and Epics*.

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*

Other materials will be distributed in class or posted on D2L

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students will read, compare, discuss, and write about myths and their diverse intersections with and impacts upon other myths and cultures, including their own. In the process, students will develop and expand their skills to think critically, conduct relevant research from reliable sources, present their ideas and research in informal small group settings and formal presentations for the whole class.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Two Essays | 30% (15% each) |
| Presentations | 10% |
| Exams: Mid Term (15%) Final (20%) | 35% |
| Participation* | 25% |

**Note: Participation encompasses many kinds of behavior. For one thing it means showing up. Showing up consists of being on time, attending the class itself, and being prepared for class by reading the assigned texts for each day and thoughtfully contributing to the class conversation. If you find it easy to share in class, participation may mean regulating the number of times you contribute; if you are more reserved then figuring out a way to contribute (through D2L perhaps) will also count. Please see Dr. Bredesen if you need clarification.*

Showing up also means getting a drink of water or going to the bathroom before or after class not disappearing in the middle of class for unspecified periods of time. Participation often includes in-class writing and different kinds of collaborative activities with other students.

Being mindful of what other classmates are saying and responding to their ideas as well as the instructor's also counts as participation. Learning each other's names and building on each other's ideas about our texts is part of participation and good classroom citizenship.

POLICIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION:

The English Department statement on plagiarism stipulates that any teacher who discovers an act of **plagiarism**—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's original work" (the *Random House Dictionary of English Language*) has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the assigned essay, and for the course and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Attendance: I take attendance. More than 3 absences (that is, missing more than a week and a half of classes) will impact your grade detrimentally, while ensuring 1 or less absences attendance will enhance your grade.

Papers and Exams: Hand papers in on time. Late papers will be reduced 1/3 of a letter grade for each day the paper is late without a university approved excuse (verified absences due to illness, emergency, or participation for an official University activity). If you miss an exam and you have a university approved excuse you may make up that exam or take it ahead of time. You will have no more than one week to do so, and the make-up exam may differ from the one given during class.

For **Academic Accommodation for a documented disability** arrangements must be made through the Office of Disability Services; you should, therefore, contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

If you require general help with your studies, please make an appointment with the **Student Success Center**. Contact number: 217-581-6696.

EIU's **Writing Center**, located at 3110 Coleman Hall, has consultants that can help you brainstorm, organize, develop support for, and document your papers. BUT, they do not provide proof-reading or editing services.

If you find yourself experiencing depression, anxiety, or other concerns please consider making an appointment at the **Counseling Clinic**. Contact number: 217-581-3413.

Professor/Student Communication: I prefer being emailed to receiving texts from students. **So unless I text you first please email me** at my EIU address dabredesen@eiu.edu. I will also use email to communicate with you personally while I will make more general announcements using D2L's News feature on our course webpage. When I email you or when you email me, please use the following format: in the subject line please put our course number Eng 3009 and your topic (for example: Eng 3009—question about upcoming paper).

Please address me professionally using my title, "Dr" and last name Bredesen or my initial B (Dr. Bredesen or Dr. B). Please use complete sentences and proof read for punctuation and spelling.

Your attention to how you communicate with your professors is another way to positively impact your relationship with them and, by extension, how well you do in this class. This is also part of your education as professionals in training.